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Approved For Release 2003/06/17 : CIA-RDP80R01731R003100160007-8

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American Friends Service Committee INCORPORATED

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November 14, 1952

General Walter Bedell Smith
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C.

Dear General Smith,

I was amazed to read in the October 20th issue of Time Magazine that the Central Intelligence Agency has been the organization responsible for financing and training a group of ex-Nazi officers for the purpose of sabotage in case Russia should invade Western Germany.

It seems to be clear from that same article that the C.I.A. ended its relationship with the BDJ only after it discovered that that organization had drawn up a list of prominent Germans who were to be assassinated on "invasion day". After checking over the list of names, most of whom were not Communists, it would seem that many of the leading democratic figures of Western Germany were on that list.

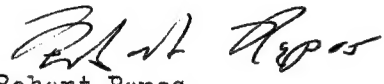
I am writing to find out whether it is part of C.I.A.'s policy to make these kinds of arrangements with ex-Nazis. It would seem that there is good reason to believe that an effective democratic opposition to Communism cannot be bought by alliances with ex-Nazis.

It has also been very discouraging to note that, as far as I can determine, no clear cut statement has ever been issued by your office describing exactly what the aims and objectives of this venture were to be. Instead, apparently, the burden of explanation has fallen upon HICOG.

I raise these points with you because it would seem that in the last analysis somewhere along the line, the C.I.A. ought to be responsible for giving some explicit explanation of its actions. If present legislation excludes C.I.A. from this responsibility, then perhaps that legislation ought to be subject to review and change.

I would appreciate hearing from you on this matter.

Sincerely yours,


Robert Repas
Labor-International Affairs

SEE OVER

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DAILY DIARY

Stanley J. Grogan

1 December 1952

ROBERT REPAS, AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE

STAT In agreement with [] I telephoned Mr. Repas at 1:05 P.M. today, 1 December 1952, identified myself, and told him that General Smith had asked me to call him and thank him for his letter of November 14, and to express General Smith's appreciation for the opinions therein expressed. I told him that it is the policy of CIA not to engage in public discussion with any news media and that CIA is responsible to the National Security Council, of which the President of the United States is chairman; that by the provisions of the National Security Act of 1947 we may not disclose methods of operation except to authorized sources, which would include certain committees of Congress and the National Security Council; and that he, Mr. Repas, must therefore depend upon the competence and the patriotism of the people in CIA who are ever alert to the public interest in carrying out their prescribed mission. He wanted to know if the article in TIME were correct. I told him we could not even discuss it, but that he had formed some erroneous ideas. General Smith did not want him to be disturbed and that was the purpose of my call. He said he did not question the patriotism of CIA but he did question its political judgement if the facts were as stated in TIME, but that since we did not reply he now gets a different picture of the situation.

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STANLEY J. GROGAN